

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01120 091541Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----034221 091542Z /47

O 091517Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7593
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1120

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO
SUBJECT: SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN

REF: STATE 060457

1. I PRESENTED MESSAGE TODAY AT 1300 GMT IN FORM OF AIDE MEMOIRE TO AMERICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER BERHANE DERESSE WHO ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY DELIVER MESSAGE TO FONMIN (WHO HAD JUST RETURNED ADDIS MORNING MAR 9 FROM BERLIN AND HAD NOT AS YET COME TO OFFICE) AND HIGHER LEVELS, I.E. DIRG. BERHANE CHARACTERIZED HIS INITIAL REACTION TO PRESENTATION AS PERSONAL PERCEPTION OF WHAT OFFICIAL ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDES WILL BE, BUT ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON SUBSTANCE OF POINTS RAISED. HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE IF PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS COULD HAVE COME EARLIER, I.E. 6-7 MONTHS AGO WHEN ETHIOPIA WAS FIRST INVADED, AND THUS COULD HAVE POSSIBLY SAVED MANY LIVES. NOW THAT SOMALIS WERE BEING FORCED TO LEAVE ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY, BERHANE THOUGHT IT WAS IRONIC THAT THOSE WHO DID NOT DEMONSTRATE ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR THE OGADENI PEOPLES WHEN THEY WERE BEING KILLED AND THEIR PROPERTY WAS BEING DESTROYED DURING FIRST PHASE OF CONFLICT, WERE NOW VOICING
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SUCH DEEP CONCERN. BERHANE SAID HE DID NOT DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF PRESIDENT CARTER BUT HE THOUGHT THAT POSSIBILITY OF ANY ARMING OF SOMALIA DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH US DESIRE FOR PEACE IN THE AREA. HE URGED US TO RESTRICT ANY ASSISTANCE IT MIGHT PROVIDE TO SOMALIA TO PURELY ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN AREAS. AFTER PROVIDING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR ALL POINTS IN MESSAGE, I ASKED BERHANE TO CONVEY TO HIS GOVERNMENT USG HOPES THAT THEY WOULD BE

GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AT HIGHEST LEVELS. BERTHANE ASSURED
ME THAT THIS WOULD BE CASE AND THAT FONMIN WOULD GIVE APPROPRIATE
ANSWER TO THOSE POINTS RAISED AT PROPER TIME.

2. COMMENT: I BELIEVE BERTHANE ACCURATELY PREDICTED ATTITUDES
WITHIN HIGHEST LEVELS OF EPMG. FULLER DETAILS OF CONVERSATION
AND BERTHANE'S COMMENTS TO FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.
MATHERON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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